

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 19-21 are pending in the application, with claims 19 and 20 being the independent claims. Claim 22 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

In the Office Action, claims 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Shibasaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,317,585 (Shibasaki). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Shibasaki does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent claims 19 and 20. Shibasaki generally relates to a mobile satellite communications system with a quick retransmission determination function. (Shibasaki, Abstract). In Shibasaki, the base station transmits an access control signal to the mobile terminals including either a correct reception indication or an incorrect reception indication. (Shibasaki, Abstract). In this way, the mobile terminal can determine whether data has been correctly or incorrectly received. (Shibasaki, Abstract). When it is determined that the access control signal includes an incorrect reception indication, the mobile terminal performs retransmission of the short burst transmission.

(Shibasaki, Abstract). The access control signal also includes a reservation permission/rejection indicator. (Shibasaki, col. 7, lines 39-41). The reservation indicator indicates whether or not the reservation for the long burst transmission required by the short burst transmission is permitted. (Shibasaki, col. 10, lines 1-3).

Thus, Shibasaki does not teach or suggest "determining an allocation scheme of said channel to each of a plurality of transceivers, and transmitting said allocation scheme to said transceivers," as recited in independent claim 19.

Shibasaki appears to describe a signal structure of frames of constant length (Shibasaki, FIG. 4; col. 7, lines 1-8). However, as described in Shibasaki, each frame either contains a synchronization pattern and one short burst or a synchronization pattern and one long burst. (Shibasaki, FIG. 3B, col. 7, lines 9-17). Moreover, Shibasaki describes that either short or long bursts are transmitted. (*See e.g.*, Shibasaki, FIG. 11).

Thus, Shibasaki does not teach or suggest a transmission format "including periodic blocks of constant length each occupied by either one long burst or an integral number of short bursts of equal length" or "whereby the division of each block into either one long burst or a number of short bursts is determined flexibly," as recited in independent claim 19. Shibasaki also does not teach or suggest a wireless link signal having a format "including periodic blocks of constant length each occupied by either one long burst or an integral number of short bursts of equal length, whereby the division of each block into either one long burst or a number of short bursts is determined flexibly," as recited in independent claim 20.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 19 and 20 are patentable over Shibasaki. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

In the Office Action, claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Shibasaki in view of Grayson, U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0028668 (Grayson). Applicants respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 21 depends from independent claim 19. As discussed above, Shibasaki does not teach or suggest every element in Applicants' independent claims 19. Grayson does not overcome the deficiencies of Shibasaki related to claim 19 described above. For at least these reasons, and further in view of its own features, dependent claim 21 is patentable over the combination of Shibasaki and Grayson. Claim 22 has been canceled by the above amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

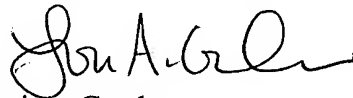
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason,

that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Gordon".

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